

That is what Hamas is saying. When Hamas fires these rockets, Hamas has no idea whether they will land at a military installation—they hope; a daycare center; they don't care or an empty parking lot; they don't care. They are firing these rockets indiscriminately.

Israel doesn't have the luxury of not worrying about where these rockets land. It must respond swiftly in shooting down all rockets or else risk serious harm to its people. In thwarting these rocket attacks, Israel depends on what is termed and named the "Iron Dome." It is a missile defense system. But as the number of rockets being launched from Gaza continues to surge, Israel's Iron Dome resources are necessarily being depleted.

Last week U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel requested that Congress allocate \$225 million of emergency funding to help Israel reinforce its defense system. After 3 weeks of fighting Israel needs these funds to replace the weaponry it has used to destroy Hamas's incoming rockets. But there is no guarantee that Israel won't need our help again if this conflict continues for weeks or months. What this funding does do for the time being is it provides Israel with the resources to continue defending its people against these terrorist attacks.

Last Thursday the Republican leader urged the Senate to act quickly in approving the Defense Secretary's request. I agree with my friend the Republican leader. We must pass legislation providing Israel with this critical aid, but in my opinion the \$225 million being requested is only temporary. If Hamas continues to escalate this conflict, Israel's resources—including the funding requested by the Secretary of Defense—will quickly be depleted.

With its current number of batteries, Israel has to prioritize populated areas and strategically important locations. The Iron Dome is a mobile system. They have to move it around. That means, unfortunately, there are some Israelis still susceptible to Hamas's rocket attacks.

We should not give the Israeli people the minimum amount of aid and then cross our fingers and hope it all works out in the future. Each missile battery costs Israel about \$50 million. Each missile Israel shoots to knock down one of those rockets from the Gaza Strip costs about \$62,000. Hamas has already fired 2,500 of those rockets in just 3 weeks. As we speak, they are going out and continuing to fire them. As we know, they are located in schools, in neighborhoods. They are hidden all over—in mosques.

Taking into account what Israel actually needs to adequately protect its people, the United States and other allies should consider providing more aid to do more for the Iron Dome. Our Israeli friends shouldn't be in the position of picking and choosing which parts of the country to defend.

The United States of America should live up to its commitments, particu-

larly with our friend Israel, which happens to be the only true democracy in the Middle East. We can do better and we need to go further in protecting Israel.

That being said, it is critical that we approve the money requested by Secretary Hagel now. Coming to the defense of Israel is not a partisan issue; it is an American principle. Both Democrats and Republicans should agree on this measure.

Another issue we can all agree on is the emergency funding requested by the White House for what is going on in the western part of the United States. We should pass this immediately.

Over the past month or 6 weeks the State of Oregon has been on fire. Hundreds of thousands of acres have burned. In one of the sparsely populated parts of the State of Washington, more than 500 homes have been destroyed. Wildfires are all over. They are in Nevada. They are in California. The base of the Sierras has a big fire going in California, and about 1,500 acres have burned already. There is a fire now going on in Idaho. Oregon is on fire. There are numerous fires in Oregon. Every day there are reports of more and more wildfires—lightning, negligence of somebody who threw out a cigarette. These fires are very oppressive. In the State of Nevada wide areas have been burned. The sad part is that once these fires are over, we will have many native species that will have been wiped out, and what will come back are invasive species, which is really not what nature intended.

We should work in the Senate on quickly putting together this funding. We have the request. It is certainly a good request, and we should get this emergency funding to the States so they can be protected. When I say "to the States," right now we have more than 4,000 firefighters out there. There is an army out there fighting fires. It is very dangerous, as we know. Every year people are killed. We know what happened in Arizona just 1½ years ago where 21 people who were fighting fires were burned in a devastating fire. They were dead in a matter of a few minutes.

Americans living in these areas are in dire need of the Federal Government's help. There is no reason to delay getting aid to our own people.

So as we begin this week, I am hopeful the Senate will also move quickly to pass legislation to aid Israel, emergency funding for wildfires, and the border supplemental.

The truth is, if the House of Representatives would vote on the Senate-passed comprehensive immigration reform bill, it would give Border Patrol the resources it needs to address this humanitarian crisis that is now on the border. That is true. But my Republican friends are slow-walking this, to say the least. The senior Senator from Texas proposed a solution to this crisis. Once again, the legislation is a short-term fix and does nothing to address the crisis at the border, while

putting vulnerable children in harm's way.

We should approve funding for these three very important measures, and we should do it immediately. We should do them—separately, together, we have to get this done. Leaving here with Israel being naked, as they are, with these wildfires raging, and the crisis at the border—it would be a shame if we did nothing.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NOMINATION OF PAMELA HARRIS TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Pamela Harris, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I am here to talk about some complex litigation on Chinese drywall. But before I do, this week seems to be the week if we are going to get anything done to assist the administration with regard to all of these children showing up at the border. It has diminished over the last few weeks. Nevertheless, there has still been an influx that we have all read about. Senator MIKULSKI, the chairman of Appropriations, has roughly a \$2.7 million supplemental appropriations bill. It would be this Senator's intention—and I think I can speak for several other Senators who feel very strongly—that we have not addressed the very root cause of the problem, which is that the drugs in huge shipments on boats coming from South America into those three Central American countries with boatloads of cocaine, carrying 1 to 3 tons of cocaine apiece, have not been interdicted. It was riveting testimony that our four-star Marine commander General Kelly of the U.S. Southern Command pointed out that he, his staff, and the